

to NPS 1992

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (NRF.txt)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name West School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 404 Garfield Street N/A Not for Publication

city, town Stoughton N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53589

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | No. of Resources within Property | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | contributing | noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u> </u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: None

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

12/6/92
Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 1/22/92

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] _____
for Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

foundation Stonewalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

West School is located in the city of Stoughton, a smaller community located in southeastern Dane County. It stands on a 188.76' x 132' lot that forms the southeastern corner of the intersection of Garfield and Prairie Streets in the southwest residential area of the city.

The school is a two-and-a-half-story square plan brick building designed in the late Italianate style. It features a variety of differently sized segmental and semi-circular arched windows, raised rough stone foundation walls, brick first and second story walls and a hipped roof surmounted by a flat deck. The school was built in 1886 and originally had two rooms on its first floor and one room on the floor above. Another room was added to the second floor in 1895 and four more rooms were then added along the East side in 1905.

The main facade of the building faces south onto Garfield street and is approximately 64' wide. The facade is asymmetrical in design and seven-bays-wide and has a slightly recessed entryway to the right of center. The raised, rough cut ashlar stone foundation has four window openings at ground level, the first is 2'8" from the left corner, the second is 18' to the right of the first and the other two are to the right of the entryway. All four windows are 3' wide and 2' high and have cement sills and segmental-arched heads made of brick. Above the rough stone of the foundation a smooth stone belt course runs the length of the facade, it being interrupted only by the segmental-arched entryway. The original stairs of this entrance have been removed and replaced with concrete slabs and two later iron railings now flank the entrance.

Besides the main entryway there are also six segmental-arched windows on the first floor. Each window has a cement sill and the first three windows from the left are 3'2" wide and 7 1/2 feet tall. The fourth window is as wide as the first three and has the same style and shape but is only half as high. The entryway is trimmed in wood and simple globe lights are located on either side of it. The existing metal and glass door is new and there is a 2 1/2' x 5 1/4' plate glass window placed to its right. Above these elements is a four-light segmental-arched transom that supplies natural light to the front landing and

X See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 7.1

staircase. Two small segmental-arched windows are then placed just above the entryway on the wall surface between the first and second floors. To the right of the entryway are two more large windows that are identical in shape and style to the first three. A raised beltcourse consisting of two corbelled courses of brick encircles the building at the level of the meeting rails of the double hung first floor windows. Eight window openings comprise the second story and they are positioned directly above corresponding window and door openings on the first floor. All have cement sills, double hung sash, and semi-circular arched heads that incorporate glass transoms and these heads are all linked by a continuous brick lintel course. A large three-window hipped-roof dormer is then centered on the main roof above.

The east elevation is nine-bays-wide and each story of these bays contains a single window opening. The foundation wall here is also topped by the same smooth stone belt course seen on the main facade. There are nine basement window openings, each of which has been enlarged by lowering the sills to 3'8" above the basement floor, and these openings are then grouped into threes. The first story has three groups of windows aligned above the basement windows. These are double hung and are surmounted with segmental-arched transoms and the heads are all linked with a continuous brick lintel course. The nine second-story windows are aligned directly above the first story windows. These are the same size as the second-story windows on the main facade, but they have semi-circular arched heads linked by a brick lintel course. A large three-window hipped dormer that is identical with the one on the main facade is then centered on the hipped roof above and one of the school's two brick chimneys is located just beside it.

The north or rear elevation is eight-bays-wide. The left four bays each have a small segmental-arched window at foundation level, the rear entrance is located in approximately the center of the elevation, and there are two more foundation level windows to the right of the entrance. All materials are new in the entry and it is the same general shape as the main one. Here, however, the transom is divided into two sections; a smaller rectilinear five-light section that is placed directly over the entry, and a larger segmental-arched three-light section above it whose lights are separated by wooden mullions. The four first-story windows to the left of the entrance are smaller than the three full-size ones. The second-story windows mirror those on the first story but they are semi-circular in shape. Another hipped dormer is centered on the slope of the roof. It is identical in shape, in

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 7 Page 7.2

style and in materials to the other two dormers.

On the west elevation of the building an early entrance to the basement has been removed and the opening filled with rough stone that matches the foundation walls. There is one small foundation window. The first floor has seven double hung windows of the same segmental-arched shape and size as the windows on the first floor of the main facade. An old iron fire escape that originally opened onto the second story has since been removed and the opening filled with a window of identical size and shape to the others on this story. The addition of this new window makes a total of seven, each of which is aligned over one of the seven first floor windows. These semi-circular arched windows are identical to the windows on the second story of the main facade. There is no dormer on this side of the roof. There are also two sky lights on the southeast corner and the northwest corners of the roof, which help light an attic apartment.

When the final addition to the school was built, the full basement under the structure contained storage rooms, a furnace room and boys and girls bathrooms. The first and second floors were divided into four classrooms, two on each floor, and there was a cloak room area in the back of each room. A wood staircase ran up from the basement to the second floor.

The interior of the school, however, was gutted in 1988 so that the present interior could be constructed. There is now one 2 bedroom apartment in the basement along with the furnace room and storage area. Four 2 bedroom apartments were built, two on each floor, where the existing classrooms were. There was also a one bedroom apartment constructed in the attic. The interior walls in each apartment are made of textured drywall and there is new flooring and carpeting. The original molding around the doors was retained whenever possible and repainted. The original transom windows over the each apartment's entrance doors were also retained and the molding around them was also repainted. The ceilings in each apartment were replaced with new drywall, lights and ceiling fans. The old wood floors were torn out and new carpeting and vinyl tiles were then installed. Original metal ceilings in the halls and stairways were repainted and the original wood trim in the halls and in the front and rear lobbies was retained and refinished.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A ___ B ___ C ___ D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance
(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Education

1886-1941

July, 1886

July, 1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

Holmstad, John/Builder (1905 addition)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

West School is being nominated under Criterion A for its local significance to the history of educational development of Stoughton. The Period of Significance spans the years between 1886, when the West School was first built, and 1941, the current NPS cut-off date. During this period the growing community of Stoughton was continually expanding its educational plant in order to meet the needs of its citizens. West School played an important part in this educational history and it is also now the oldest surviving school building in the city as well.

As soon as villages and towns were established in Wisconsin in the mid and late 1800s schools were established to educate the children of the first settlers and Stoughton was no exception to this pattern. The first public school opened in Wisconsin in 1845. In 1856, Margaretta Schurz established the first kindergarten in the United States in Watertown, Wisconsin.⁽¹⁾ The first public elementary school was started in Kenosha in 1845, the first public high school opened in 1875 and compulsory education for children ages 7 to 14 became law in 1879.⁽²⁾ As these events were happening in different parts of the state, the city of Stoughton was also growing and educating its children.

What is now the city of Stoughton was first surveyed in 1833. The first white settler was Knut Roe of Norway who lived in what is now Pleasant Springs.⁽³⁾ In 1847 Luke Stoughton, also from Norway, purchased 800 acres of land which is the present city of Stoughton from a man who purchased it from Daniel Webster.⁽⁴⁾ He built his saw mill in 1847, the

X See Continuation Sheet

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 8.1

first general store in 1848, at what is now Main and Division, and a grist mill in 1850. In 1850, the first school was also built at what is now Page and Main streets for the settler's children.⁽⁵⁾ By 1853, passenger rail service reached Stoughton from Milwaukee and in 1868 the Village of Stoughton was legally formed. That same year T. G. Mandt started his wagon business on a lot by the Yahara River on South Street. By 1883 he employed 225 people and grossed \$350,000.⁽⁶⁾

With its lumber and grist mills, a large manufacturing company and with fertile farmland surrounding the village, Stoughton became a haven for early immigrants in the late 1800s, most notably for those of Norwegian origin. These immigrants increased Stoughton's population from 984 in 1870 to 4,761 by 1910.⁽⁷⁾ This dramatic growth created a number of problems for the school board, which had to provide the educational facilities to handle this growth.

The first school was built in 1850 and was a one-room building having two teachers who taught all the children in and around the early settlement. In 1862, a high school was built, the second in Dane County, to relieve the overcrowding in the first school. Shortly after completion of the high school the first school was torn down and all the students then attended this new three-story school, which was more centrally located.⁽⁸⁾

As Stoughton's population continued to increase over the next two decades and as the village expanded to the south and west of what is now Main Street, it became increasingly evident that the high school building was not sufficient to handle the growth of the student population. By the end of May in 1885, the School Board recommended the addition of more classrooms to the high school to handle the overcrowding problems and also the purchase of three lots from O.T. Turner in the villages second addition for the cost of \$400.00.⁽⁹⁾ One year later West School was built on its present site as the first primary school in Stoughton, with two rooms on the first floor and one on the second. This proved a temporary solution because by 1892 overcrowding was again a problem for the School Board. To solve the problem this time, the East School was built in 1892 and an addition was added to the high school.⁽¹⁰⁾ The next year saw a decline in enrollment at West School, but by 1897 the Stoughton Courier reported that overcrowding was once again a problem at all the schools, especially the

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 8.2

two elementary schools. In 1899, the School Board voted to build South School to handle the overflow problems at East School and also to add one more room to the second story of the West School. This gave Stoughton three primary schools, each with four classrooms, and a high school that was then one of the largest in Dane County.⁽¹¹⁾

For the next five years overcrowding wasn't a serious problem in Stoughton, but by the summer of 1904 School Board minutes show that several primary grades exceeded the 40 pupil limit by as many as 37 students and the district level population had increased by 100 students each year for the past five years. Consequently, the Stoughton School Board approved the addition of four more classrooms to West School along the west side of the building. In addition, a new floor and a new furnace were added to the existing building's interior with the exterior stone and brick matched as closely as possible. The builder of this 1905 addition was John Holmstad.⁽¹²⁾

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century East, West and South schools would be used for primary grades only, with West School having grades 1-6. Although there would still be overcrowding problems, there would be no more additions to West School. By the early 1970's West School was used for only grades 1-3 with the students being bused to the new elementary school for hot lunch and to use the library facilities. 1982 would see the end of operations in East, West and South Schools in the city of Stoughton. Although lack of space still remained a problem, the age of these facilities and the cost of renovation were too great to offset keeping these schools open. All three were sold to private investors and have since been renovated into apartments.

As the country as a whole evolved from a rural, agriculturally oriented society to a more urban one, schools also had to progress in order to meet the changes and needs that were being placed on the youth of America at that time. The educational significance of West School lies primarily in its being an excellent and early example of the evolution of Stoughton's educational infrastructure from one and two-room pioneer schools to standardized, centralized multi-room graded schools. West School had a direct role in increasing local literacy, in helping immigrants assimilate into the new settlement, in helping immigrants make the transition from predominantly European life styles to that of their new country, and in helping their children acquire the skills necessary for participation in the increasingly complex world around them. But even as schools like West School replaced the one-room school houses of an earlier day, larger, more modern and more technically

NPS FORM 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 8 Page 8.3

sophisticated schools replaced the second generation of public schools that were built in the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries such as the West School. Remodeling and reusing these older buildings, however, has allowed them to continue to perform useful service in the community and their continued presence in the community continues to remind us of who we are, what we are, and where we came from.

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number 9 Page 9.1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONTINUED

League of Women Voters of Dane County. "Stoughton Public Schools."
January, 1974.

Soderblum, Kathy. "The Hub-Courier," March 12, 1970.

Stoughton School Board Minutes. July 13, 1885; August 5, 1905.
Stoughton Area School District Administration Building,
Stoughton, Wisconsin.

ENDNOTES

1. Americana International Encyclopedia. New York: Grolier Corp.,
1981-1986, Volume 29.
2. Ibid.
3. Homme, Fred. Oak Opening - The Story of Stoughton. The Stoughton
Centennial History Committee. 1947.p.10.
4. Ibid. P. 20.
5. Ibid. P. 28.
6. Ibid. P. 33.
7. Soderblum, Kathy. "The Hub-Courier," March 12, 1970.
8. The Dane County League of Women Voters. "Stoughton Public
Schools." Madison, Wisconsin, January, 1974.
9. Stoughton School Board Minutes. July 13, 1885. Stoughton Area
School District Administration Building, Stoughton, Wisconsin.
10. Soderblum, Kathy. Op. Cit.
11. Stoughton School Board Minutes, August 5, 1905.
12. Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Americana International Encyclopedia. New York: Grolier Corp., 1981-1986, Vol. 29.

Homme, Fred. Oak Opening: The Story of Stoughton. Stoughton, The Stoughton Centennial Committee, 1947.

X see continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| A | <u>1/6</u> | <u>3/1/8/3/8/0</u> | <u>4/7/5/0/5/0/0</u> | B | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> | D | <u>/</u> | <u>/ / / / /</u> | <u>/ / / / / /</u> |

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 4, 5 and 6: Block 2 - O. M. Turner, Second Addition of the City of Stoughton.

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification. The nominated property consists of three lots that are bounded by Prairie Street and Garfield Street. The original school was built on Lot 4 but the addition built in 1906 took up most of Lot 5 and the rest was used for playground. Playground around the remodeled school has been sodded and repaved for a new parking lot.

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Kolb
organization _____ date April 13, 1991
street & number 5571 Ralph Road telephone (608)-835-7476
city or town Oregon state WI zip code 53575

NPS FORM 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

West School, Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
Section number Photos Page 1

Photo #1 of 5.

West School.
Stoughton, Dane County, WI.
Photo by D.W. Kolb, April 1991.
Neg. at Wis. Historical Society
View looking Northeast.

Photo #2 of 5.

West School.
Stoughton, Dane County, WI.
Photo by D.W. Kolb, April 1991.
Neg. at Wis. Historical Society
View looking North.

Photo #3 of 5.

West School.
Stoughton, Dane County, WI.
Photo by D.W. Kolb, April 1991.
Neg. at Wis. Historical Society
View looking West.

Photo #4 of 5.

West School.
Stoughton, Dane County, WI.
Photo by D.W. Kolb, April 1991.
Neg. at Wis. Historical Society
View looking Southeast.

Photo #5 of 5.

West School.
Stoughton, Dane County, WI.
Photo by D.W. Kolb, April 1991.
Neg. at Wis. Historical Society
View looking Southeast.